

be provided in a public housing system. Because of his integrity, he rebuilt the trust and confidence of residents that the housing authority could provide quality service to those most in need.

David insists that the interests of residents come first. Residents are treated with respect and encouraged to participate in training programs such as developing computer skills. Families are encouraged to focus upon children in school and residents to participate in helping to manage the properties in which they live.

Mr. Speaker, if every major urban community had a housing director with the personal commitment and skills of David Gilmore, we would be much closer to solving the difficulties facing public housing. By showing that public housing can work, David Gilmore has done much to restore confidence in federal housing programs. David has made a major contribution to that effort to make our capital the "shining city on the hill."

COMPREHENSIVE RETIREMENT SECURITY AND PENSION REFORM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2000

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support doing everything possible to strengthen retirement savings and help Americans achieve a secure retirement. The first task before us here in Congress is to ensure that Social Security will be solvent well into the future. My Democratic colleagues and I are working hard to achieve this goal. Our second task is to make it easier for the American people to save for their retirement.

Today there are over 35 million people over the age 65. By 2050, the number of people aged 65 and older is estimated to rise above 81 million. We must do everything possible to strengthen individual retirement savings that help Americans achieve a financially secure retirement. Additionally, we must help employers establish and maintain employee retirement plans. The Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act, of which I am a cosponsor, contains provisions to increase IRA's and help small employers offer pension plans, as well as other changes to make it easier for Americans to save.

Introduced by Representatives PORTMAN and CARDIN, H.R. 1102 increases the amount that individuals may contribute to traditional and Roth Individual Accounts (IRA's) from \$2000 to \$5000. Additionally, H.R. 1102 will encourage small employers to provide pension coverage by streamlining regulations and making it less expensive for small employers to set up pension plans and increasing their allowable contributions. H.R. 1102 will also enhance retirement security by reducing pension vesting requirements to three years; make retirement savings portable when workers change jobs; and allowing older workers to make catch up contributions to retirement savings plans. Additionally, it helps individuals with several employers by changing the regulation to eliminate the 100% of average compensation for the highest three-year provision under multi-employer pension plans.

I firmly believe that H.R. 1102 helps hard working middle class families plan for their retirement. This legislation received widespread, bipartisan support from Members of Congress and employer and employee organizations and unions.

I also supported the Neal substitute, as I believe it is important to ensure that lower income families receive the benefits of this legislation. However, I support final passage of the Portman-Cardin bill because I believe it will help many Americans earning below \$50,000 a year by allowing them to put away up to \$5000 a year in IRA and to increase the limits on their employer pensions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act.

TRIBUTE TO PERI BAILEY— CANCER SURVIVOR

HON. ROBERT E. WISE, JR.

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to join with many friends in Charleston, West Virginia in offering congratulations and best wishes to Peri Bailey. As I deliver these remarks, a very special celebration is taking place on the second floor of Women & Children's Hospital in Charleston.

For the past year, Peri, who just celebrated her 3rd birthday, and her family have been battling cancer. Today the medical treatments will be supplemented with pop corn and snow cones to mark the occasion of her LAST chemotherapy treatment.

Peri, since I could not be with you today, I've asked my friend, Phil Luckeydoo, to be there on my behalf and he will bring along some balloons and a few magic tricks for you and your friends at Women's and Children's.

Peri, along with her family and friends, has demonstrated for us the true meaning of the words, courage, friendship, and faith. They have been a source of real inspiration to all West Virginians. And for that reason Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow members of the House to join me in extending our congratulations and best wishes to Peri on this memorable day, July 20, 2000—the day she officially becomes a cancer survivor!

ASIAN PACIFIC CHARTER COMMISSION, H.R. 4899

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 4899, legislation to establish a commission to promote a coordinated foreign policy of the United States to ensure economic and military security in the Pacific region of Asia through the promotion of democracy, human rights, the rule of law, free trade, and open markets, and for other purposes.

Asia is a region vital to the future of our nation. Over the past 50 years, Asia has become a significant center of international economic and military power. Our nation has sacrificed

our blood of our sons and daughters on Asian soil in defense of our national shores. America has fought three wars in Asia since 1941 and American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines are engaged in ensuring peace across the Pacific. Our basic interests in Asia have remained virtually the same for the past 200 years: fostering democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Shortly after World War II, the reknowned American soldier and statesman George C. Marshall said that a safe and free America depends on a safe and free Europe. Marshall, of course, was emphasizing the importance of Europe to our nation at the time. Permit me to suggest that Marshall's paradigm has now changed. Today, he could have stated that a safe and free America depends on a safe, democratic, and free Asia.

Just as we could not take Europe for granted during the Cold War, we must not take Asia for granted as we enter the 21st century. It is incumbent upon us as a global leader to provide the leadership that will both protect our interests in this vital region of the world and, at the same time, keep the peace. However, our leadership role in Asia is being questioned. Some Asians perceive the American approach to foreign policy is marked by uncertainty, questioning our sincerity and commitment to the region. Militarily, they have watched as American troop strength declined from 135,000 in 1990 to 85,000 in 1996. They were concerned with the closing of our strategic bases in the Philippines in 1992. There has been a mixed message of sacrifice of security and human rights issues to commercial engagement.

The democratic election which brought an opposition leader peacefully to power in Taipei this spring was welcomed by democratic nations around the world. It is such an orderly, democratic change which the Asian Pacific Charter Commission is designed to nurture.

Asia is a region not only of great diversity—ethnic, religious, cultural, linguistic—but also of historic rivalries—ancient in their origins but no less severe today. Such rivalries can become serious threats to Asian stability. Potential flashpoints range from the 38th parallel on the Korean peninsula to the Taiwan Strait to the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea to Kashmir on the Indian subcontinent. Weapons proliferation and regional arms races that are fueled by territorial, maritime, and ethnic disputes only add to the possibility of a major conflagration.

U.S. Leadership is continually being challenged to maintain and advance our national interests amid these relationships. Further challenges to U.S. interests include access to markets that are obstructed by trade barriers, violations of intellectual property rights, and other trade-related issues. Nor can we ignore the growth of transnational criminal activities that range from the threat to America's youth from narcotics produced in the Golden Triangle to the smuggling of illegal aliens onto our shores.

The most significant challenge to peace and prosperity in Asia is the rise of a regional hegemon. The People's Republic of China is the most likely candidate in that role. China is already an economic power and is seeking to become an Asian military power as well. In the absence of any countervailing presence, Asia could find itself within a Chinese sphere of influence in the not-too-distant future. Writing in

the January 20th issue of *The Weekly Standard*, Robert Kagan, the Alexander Hamilton Fellow in History at the American University, states that "There is a Marxian foolishness to the argument that the transformation of China into a liberal democracy is historically inevitable." Kagan goes on to state that "The iron laws of modernization can be broken by a ruling elite that is ultimately more interested in power than modernization." The Chinese nation rightfully seeks a level of respect commensurate with its newly acquired economic might. The question is, what does the unelected government in Beijing seek? And are those goals commensurate with a region that is increasingly characterized by democratic societies with free-market economies, such as those we now see in much of Europe and Latin America?

Much of Asia is looking to the United States for answers to these and other important questions regarding the future of the region. If the answers do not come from Washington, be assured they will come from elsewhere, and they may not be to our liking. Resolving these challenges requires a continued and significant American presence in the region. The wind favors a ship whose course is marked. In the years following World War II, America was the indispensable leader and peacekeeper of the Pacific. But America's position is now being challenged. The political, economic, and security challenges which our nation faces require principled and consistent leadership from Washington. The wind favors our ship of state, but only if our course, or strategy, has been clearly set.

We need a new national policy toward Asia—one which addresses in a forthright manner both the opportunities and challenges presented by a continent in flux. The opportunities for a further commercial partnership with a continent which has made significant headway in recovering from economic crisis is obvious to all. Less clear, though, is how we can finesse such critical national security concerns as easing cross-strait tensions between China and Taiwan, monitoring developments on the still volatile Korean peninsula, and reducing the threat posed by nuclear proliferation on the Indian subcontinent. It is there that this Asian Pacific Charter Commission can play a constructive role.

In 1941, the United States and Great Britain laid down a set of principles of conduct. It was called the Atlantic Charter. Similarly, I propose that we establish an Asian Pacific Charter Commission that would assist our government in laying out the principles for our policies in Asia in the 21st century. Such an Asian Pacific Charter articulates America's long-term goals and objectives in the Pacific and link them with the means for implementation. It is a comprehensive model for our involvement in the region, supporting our national interests and assuring others of our intention to remain a Pacific power. Furthermore, it demonstrates that the United States is placing its relations with Asia in the 21st century on a par comparable to that which has formed our relations with Europe over the latter half of the 20th century.

The principles of an Asian Pacific Charter provides for effective security; prevention of regional hegemony by one nation; promotion of democracy and the rule of law; respect for human and religious rights; and expansion of trade on a reciprocal basis.

Such a charter would strengthen security arrangements by providing a basis for a long-term U.S. presence through basing and access agreements, for regional security agreements, and for an American presence following the reunification of the Korean peninsula. It could provide the basis for the continuation of a credible forward presence of U.S. forces to deter aggression, help resolve crises, and protect and defend our interests as well as those of our allies and trading partners.

Too often, we have viewed Russia as being part of Europe. Yet, with nearly 2,800 miles of coastline, Russia is very much a Pacific nation. After Canada and Mexico, it is our next-closest neighbor, just 68 miles across the Bering Strait from Alaska.

An Asian Pacific Charter would also provide a basis for Japan to participate more fully in regional security arrangements, as well as for exploring new cooperative approaches that foster security in the entire region. As Mike Mansfield, former U.S. Ambassador to Japan, has stated, the U.S.-Japan relationship is—in his words—the "single most important bilateral relationship, bar none." The security environment in Asia in the 21st century will be shaped largely by our relationship with Japan. Our relationship is strong today. We must make certain that it remains so.

Another great democracy of Asia that we have too long neglected is India, which, like many nations in the region, is undergoing a dramatic economic change as it embraces a market economy. Although located in the heart of an area largely characterized by national political institutions that are authoritarian or totalitarian, India adheres courageously to the same core values that we also hold so dear. The United States needs to reach out to India beyond our friendship and mutual respect and become close partners in a struggle that assures that Asia's security, economic growth, and market economies are protected by the rule of law and democratic institutions. An Asian Pacific Charter could provide a framework for advancing such ties.

Francine Frankel, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for the Advanced Study of India at the University of Pennsylvania, writing in the Autumn 1996 issue of *The Washington Quarterly*, states that the new global context gives reason for both countries to want better ties. U.S. and Indian policymakers have converging geopolitical interests in establishing a rough equilibrium in Asia, particularly as China's military modernization increasingly threatens neighboring countries, including those in Southeast Asia, in the coming century. India's democratic institutions, advanced educational system, and millions of highly educated citizens could form an important hub in a new Asia—an Asia that supports economic growth but allows for the rights of workers to be protected; an Asia that supports development but permits nongovernmental advocacy groups to speak out against exploitation of the environment; and an Asia that integrates traditional values with a deep regard for the rule of law and human and religious rights.

An Asian Pacific Charter could invigorate U.S. efforts to advance the Post-Summit dialogue between North and South Korea that would eventuate in unification and a final peace. Such a charter could also lay out U.S. policy with regard to weapons proliferation, narcotics trafficking, terrorism, environmental

degradation, and other transnational issues. In short, by clearly enunciating U.S. policy toward Asia, a Asian Pacific Charter would establish a bright line clearly understood by all nations in the region. At the same time, it would provide a basis for sound long-term relations with China.

Most agree that China presents the greatest challenge to the United States in the Pacific, with the potential to be a major destabilizing force in the region. One reason that the United States has difficulties in its relations with China is because the latter is governed by a totalitarian regime. It is not a democracy. We do not have comparable problems with such other Asian democracies as Japan, India, Taiwan, Thailand, South Korea, or the Philippines. To some, it is obvious that the Beijing government is bent upon a policy of regional expansion and domination, and to eventually expelling the United States from the Western Pacific.

Those who espouse this view believe that any improvement of relations with Washington on the part of Beijing is purely tactical. They note that senior U.S. officials arriving in the Chinese capital for talks are almost invariably greeted by editorials in the government-controlled press denouncing American "hegemonism." Others believe that the Chinese government views America in such a light because of our occasional criticisms regarding what it views as "internal matters," such as its violations of internationally recognized human rights; its illegal occupation of Tibet; its repression of any dissent; or its transfer of nuclear weapons technology to rogue regimes such as Iran despite a commitment not to do so.

America's foreign policy toward the region is perceived by Asians as amounting to one issue: trade. There seems to be a belief that enhanced trade, even at a cost to the United States of a trade deficit approaching \$70 billion a year, will bring economic prosperity to China; and that, in turn, will improve the prospects for democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights. Missing from that calculation, is an understanding that trade alone does not bring democracy and the rule of law, and that trade flourishes best under the umbrella of democracy's rule of law. An Asian Pacific Charter would emphasize the importance that the United States attaches to such principles as these. To paraphrase something His Holiness, the Dalai Lama of Tibet recently said, our concerns are not about the Chinese people or Chinese culture, but about the Chinese communist government. An Asian Pacific Charter could help to encourage China's participation as a fully responsible and constructive member of the international system.

America's interests in Asia and the Pacific are relatively simple and straightforward, including promotion of democracy and the rule of law; human and religious rights; market economies; and regional security for all. Many nations in the region look to the United States for continued leadership, but, despite any high-sounding rhetoric, we have too often been seen so myopic in placing short-term opportunities ahead of longer-term pursuit of both regional stability and security.

The time has come to lay out an architecture of policy that will establish our intention to remain engaged in Asia and the terms of our continued long term engagement. A Commission to establish an Asian Pacific Charter for

the 21st century would provide the framework for such a sound U.S. policy. It would assure the entire region-allies and otherwise-of the continuation of a leadership that is consistent, coherent, and coordinated.

Accordingly, I invite my colleagues to support H.R. 4899, and I submit the full text of H.R. 4899 to be printed at this point in the RECORD.

H.R. 4899

A BILL To establish a commission to promote a consistent and coordinated foreign policy of the United States to ensure economic and military security in the Pacific region of Asia through the promotion of democracy, human rights, the rule of law, free trade, and open markets, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Asian Pacific Charter Commission Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to promote a consistent and coordinated foreign policy of the United States to ensure economic and military security in the Pacific region of Asia;

(2) to support democratization, the rule of law, and human rights in the Pacific region of Asia;

(3) to advance free trade and open markets on a reciprocal basis in the Pacific region of Asia;

(4) to combat terrorism and the spread of illicit narcotics in the Pacific region of Asia; and

(5) to advocate an active role for the United States Government in diplomacy, security, and the furtherance of good governance and the rule of law in the Pacific region of Asia.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.

There is established a commission to be known as the Asian Pacific Charter Commission (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Commission").

SEC. 4. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.

(a) DUTIES.—The Commission shall establish and carry out, either directly or through nongovernmental and international organizations, programs, projects, and activities to achieve the purposes described in section 2 of this Act, including research and educational or legislative exchanges between the United States and countries in the Pacific region of Asia.

(b) ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—The Commission may establish such advisory committees as the Commission determines to be necessary to advise the Commission on policy matters relating to the Pacific region of Asia and to otherwise carry out this Act.

SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSION.

(a) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be composed of 7 members all of whom—

(1) shall be citizens of the United States who are not officers or employees of any government, except to the extent they are considered such officers or employees by virtue of their membership on the Commission; and

(2) shall have interest and expertise in issues relating to the Pacific region of Asia.

(b) APPOINTMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The individuals referred to in subsection (a) shall be appointed—

(A) by the President, after consultation with the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(2) POLITICAL AFFILIATION.—Not more than 4 of the individuals appointed under paragraph (1) may be affiliated with the same political party.

(c) TERM.—Each member of the Commission shall be appointed for a term of 6 years.

(d) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(e) CHAIRPERSON; VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The President shall designate a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Commission from among the members of the Commission.

(f) COMPENSATION.—

(1) RATES OF PAY.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), members of the Commission shall serve without pay.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of the Commission may receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

(g) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(h) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

(i) AFFIRMATIVE DETERMINATIONS.—An affirmative vote by a majority of the members of the Commission shall be required for any affirmative determination by the Commission under section 4.

SEC. 6. POWERS OF COMMISSION.

(a) CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Commission may accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, or devises of services or property, both real and personal, for the purpose of assisting or facilitating the work of the Commission. Gifts, bequests, or devises of money and proceeds from sales of other property received as gifts, bequests, or devises shall be deposited in the Treasury and shall be available for disbursement upon order of the Commission.

(b) MAILS.—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the United States.

SEC. 7. STAFF AND SUPPORT SERVICES OF COMMISSION.

(a) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Commission shall have an executive director appointed by Commission after consultation with the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Majority Leader of the Senate. The executive director shall serve the Commission under such terms and conditions as the Commission determines to be appropriate.

(b) STAFF.—The Commission may appoint and fix the pay of such additional personnel, not to exceed 10 individuals, as it considers appropriate.

(c) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon request of the chairperson of the Commission, the head of any Federal agency may detail, on a nonreimbursable basis, any of the personnel of the agency to the Commission to assist the Commission in carrying out its duties under this Act.

(d) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The chairperson of the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 8. REPORTS OF COMMISSION.

The Commission shall prepare and submit to Congress an annual report on the programs, projects, and activities on the Commission for the prior year.

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act \$5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2001 and 2002.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropria-

tions under subsection (a) are authorized to remain available until expended.

TRIBUTE TO THE WOMEN'S OVERSEAS SERVICE LEAGUE AND WOMEN WARTIME VOLUNTEERS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the efforts of the Women's Overseas Service League (WOSL) and in honoring the many women who have selflessly volunteered to assist our armed forces during time of war. In World War I, more than 90,000 civilian women served as volunteers and nearly 350 women gave their lives in this effort. Women served in both World Wars, the Korean War, Vietnam, the Gulf, and in many other conflicts. As these women returned to the United States, however, they came home without the benefits that male soldiers received. Because these women were not considered "veterans," their contribution to the Armed Forces was, until recently, practically unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker, women played many important roles in the WOSL. Women ran recreation centers, created libraries for the military, taught in hospitals and schools, and worked as journalists. By participating in these humanitarian activities, these women risked their lives and their health. In recognition of the great services these women provided our Armed Services, a memorial freeway in California was named in their honor on May 29, 2000.

The Women's Overseas Service League honors and recognizes the women who have graciously volunteered for their country. Currently, the WOSL supports the Women's Memorial in Washington, D.C. and Freedoms Foundation Youth Leadership Seminars at Valley Forge. WOSL offers scholarships for young women pursuing military careers and has vigorously supported events such as the creation of the Civilian Women Volunteers All Wars Memorial Highway. The WOSL's dedication to women veterans and volunteers has made a large impact in keeping the memory of these individuals alive and ensuring strong support of women in the military for the future.

Mr. Speaker, groups such as the Women's Overseas Service League have started to spread awareness of women in the military. The Civilian Women Volunteers All Wars Memorial Freeway is the beginning in honoring women who have served our country. Nevertheless, it is only a beginning. The women who gave their time, their health and their lives deserve our recognition and our gratitude for their outstanding contribution to our Armed Forces and to our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the women volunteers who have served so valiantly.